



## The Sending of the Twelve in Matthew Pt 2: He Gave Them Power!

January 13, 2019

TEXT: MATTHEW 10:1-4

- Last week, we discussed the immediate sending out of the Twelve on a special mission to Israel.
- We learned a few things:
  1. Our LORD always leads by example.
  2. Our LORD's highest calling is "unto Him."
  3. Calling typically precedes anointing; time comes before title!

THE SPIRITUAL CLIMATE IN ISRAEL

- What in the world was going on in Israel, among the people of God?!?
- Jerusalem itself, emblematic of all of Israel due to the location of God's temple, is called by many splendid honorifics in Scripture, all denoting the holiness and greatness of God in her midst. For example, Zion, the City of David, Salem (peaceful), the City of God, the City of the Great King, the Perfection of Beauty, the Joy of the Whole Earth (Lam 2:15), the Throne of the Lord, the Holy Mountain, the City of Truth, the Lord our Righteousness, and Jehovah-Shammah...the LORD is there!
- Those descriptions are a long way from the constant stream of demonic activity so present in Jesus' and the Apostle's day.
- The term "unclean spirits" is mentioned about 24 times in the Gospels and Acts and the term "demon" or devil" some 13 times in the Gospels.
- By any metric, Jerusalem and the surrounding areas were rife with demonic activity and spiritual conflict. Hence the need for power...

POWER VS. AUTHORITY

1. First, let us distinguish between two words in Greek that are sometimes translated "power."
2. When we think of power, we often think of Acts 1:8.
3. The word for power here is the often preached "dunamis," which means "force, might, or miraculous power or ability." (Strong's)
4. The word translated power in the KJV in Matthew 10:1 is "exousia." It means "authority or jurisdiction, the power of government to rule; privilege; liberty; leave or permission."
5. In sum, whereas "dunamis" is about ability, "exousia" is about authorization. One is the police officer or sheriff, the other is the State (ex. Saul's persecution by the authority of the chief priests, Acts 9:14). One is the preaching, the other is the anointing. One is "I'm bigger and stronger so family, listen to me;" the other is "true headship, with authority given by Christ."
6. It's one thing to have power; it's quite another to have the rightful, legal authority to exercise that power. The disciples weren't just given ability; they were given some of the LORD's own authority over principalities and powers.

7. And it's a good thing too. Demon's aren't scared of us; they do however, fear the LORD!
  - *James 2:19 (KJV) Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.*
8. God, among many other attributes, is a *judicial* God. Scripture says, "For the LORD is our judge, the LORD is our lawgiver, the LORD is our king; he will save us." Isaiah 33:22 (KJV) These are all judicial titles. Understanding how authority works in the Kingdom and obeying such will help any believer in their battle against Satan.

#### THOUGHTS TO PONDER...

1. Kingdom authority is granted by Christ alone.
2. Kingdom authority may be granted for specific times and purposes.
3. Kingdom authority is granted to true disciples, true followers of Jesus.

#### CONCLUSIONS AND APPLICATIONS

1. Our LORD's authority was granted to defeat hellish powers and heal people. I believe such authority is needed by believers, in some way, today.
2. To what degree does the Church truly walk in such power? To what degree does the Church truly want to walk in such power? Are we willing to pay the price in prayer and spiritual discipline?
3. With due consideration that the apostles were indeed a unique class of servants unto our LORD, might we consider praying for the authority and power to do damage to Satan's kingdom? Jesus said to the Seventy-Two He also sent out:

*Luke 10:18-20 (ESV) And he said to them, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. 19 Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you. 20 Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven."*

4. Since we have no authority in the spiritual realm unless God grants it, and since "...we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high *places*," (Eph 6:12) let us stay close "unto Him!!!

*"And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses; Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross; **And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.**" Colossians 2:13-15 (KJV)*

Amen!